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Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development
Second session
New York, 14-25 August 2000
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda

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2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
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4. Outcome of the seventh and eighth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development.
5. Strengthening and coordination of the activities of the United Nations system in the field of water resources.
6. Key issues related to the integrated planning and management of land use, ecosystems and freshwater development, use and protection, with special emphasis on the impact of the quantity and quality of shared waters of riparian States.
7. Follow-up to the first session of the Committee.
8. Contribution to the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and its preparatory process.
9. World energy assessment report: its implication for sustainable energy policy development.
10. Review of salient trends and issues on energy development and use in the context of sustainable development:
    (a) Energy and the residential sector;
    (b) Renewable sources of energy, with special emphasis on solar energy;

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(c) New financial mechanisms and economic instruments to speed up the investment in sustainable energy development;

(d) Promising strategies and initiatives to accelerate the development and implementation of sustainable energy technologies;

(e) Coordination of energy activities within the United Nations system.

11. The multi-purpose use of hydro resources.

12. Provisional agenda for the third session of the Committee.

13. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its second session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 26 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, the Committee, as a subsidiary body of the Council, shall elect its own officers. The Committee may wish to elect a Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur(s), taking into consideration that the Committee comprises 2 sub-groups of 12 members each, 1 dealing with issues of energy and 1 dealing with issues of water resources.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The provisional agenda of the Committee was approved by the Economic and Social Council by its decision 1999/277 of 28 July 1999.

3. Review of the reports of the Secretary-General prepared for the eighth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development dealing with the issues of integrated planning and the management of land and water resources

The Committee will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in providing safe water supply and sanitation for all during the 1990s, which was before the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighth session (24 April-5 May 2000). The report provides up-to-date information on water supply and sanitation coverage around the world, evaluates the progress made in attaining the ultimate goal of providing safe water supply and sanitation for all, and provides proposals for further actions.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in providing safe water supply and sanitation for all during the 1990s (E/CN.17/2000/13)

The Committee will also have before it the report of the Secretary-General on issues related to the spatial planning of land (including minerals) and water resources, which was before the Committee at its first session and which has been revised in the light of the comments made by the Committee at that session on issues for inclusion in the report (see Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/47, annex).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on issues related to the spatial planning of land (including minerals) and water resources (E/C.14/2000/2)

4. Outcome of the seventh and eighth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development

The Committee will hear an oral report on the outcome of the seventh and eighth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

5. Strengthening and coordination of the activities of the United Nations system in the field of water resources

The Committee will have before it a report providing information on the technical cooperation activities of the agencies of the United Nations system in the field of water resources undertaken since 1998, touching on the evolution of technical cooperation in water resources and lessons learned over the past decade.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on technical cooperation activities of the United Nations system in the field of water resources development (E/C.14/2000/10)

6. Key issues related to the integrated planning and management of land use, ecosystems and freshwater development, use and protection, with special emphasis on the impact of the quantity and quality of shared waters of riparian States

At its first session, in 1999, the Committee decided to prepare for its second session an inter-sessional issue paper addressing key linkages and strategic issues related to an integrated approach to land use, ecosystems and freshwater resources.

Documentation

Inter-sessional issue paper on integrated water resources management: reconciling the interests of water use, land use and ecosystems (E/C.14/2000/3)

7. Follow-up to the first session of the Committee

The main decisions and recommendations of the Committee and the follow-up to the decisions of the Committee and related initiatives will be reviewed.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the first session of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development: energy sector (E/C.14/2000/7)

8. Contribution to the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and its preparatory process

Upon review of the report of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development on its first session, the Sub-group

on Energy may wish to consider a further contribution to the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Documentation for information

Report of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development on its first session (E/CN.17/2000/12)

9. World energy assessment report: its implication for sustainable energy policy development

The World Energy Assessment, prepared by the United Nations Development Programme, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and the World Energy Council, as part of the preparatory process for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, is being published on schedule, after expert review of its second draft and a number of regional outreach programmes for consultations on the Assessment.

10. Review of salient trends and issues on energy development and use in the context of sustainable development

(a) Energy and the residential sector

Increases in population, urbanization and per capita incomes will contribute to the growth in energy demand in the residential sector. Within the residential sector, there are four principal uses of energy: climate control (heating, of both space and water, and cooling of space), cooking, lighting and appliances. Rising real incomes will result in increased penetration of energy-intensive appliances. Transportation energy use for private mobility is not included in the study.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on energy and the residential sector (E/C.14/2000/8)

(b) Renewable sources of energy, with special emphasis on solar energy

The Committee will have before it a review of the potential and promise that solar energy holds in addressing the challenge of energy for sustainable development and, especially, providing basic energy services for nearly 2 billion people still without access to modern energy services. The current status of utilization of solar energy worldwide is also reviewed with emphasis on solar photovoltaics, including (a) rate of growth of deployment and contribution to national or local energy balances, (b) savings in carbon dioxide emissions, (c) goals and targets, (d) government-driven, donor-driven and market-driven developments, and (e) strengths and weaknesses of current approaches covering policy, institutional and entrepreneurial capacity, and societal issues.

Documentation for information

Report of the Secretary-General on renewable sources of energy, with emphasis on solar energy (E/C.14/2000/9)

(c) New financial mechanisms and economic instruments to speed up the investment in sustainable energy development

Financing is a key issue worldwide, in the development of sustainable energy resources, and will most probably become the dominant issue in the development and use of renewable energy sources. In developing countries, severe constraints are likely on the financing of sustainable energy development, considering the very limited financial resources of those countries, competition from other, needier national investments and, not least, increasing privatization. The direction and focus of energy financing to developing countries by multilateral institutions are reviewed.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on financial mechanisms and economic instruments to speed up the investment in sustainable energy development (E/C.14/2000/4)

(d) Promising strategies and initiatives to accelerate the development and implementation of sustainable energy technologies

The Sub-group on Energy may wish to deliberate on this issue, and the results of the discussion will be reflected in the report of the Committee on its second session.

(e) Coordination of energy activities within the United Nations system

Cooperation in the field of energy within the United Nations system has been undertaken on a formal basis since 1998. The Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Energy has facilitated coordination of energy activities and has been successful in its initial efforts, especially with regard to establishing a common system-wide approach to energy and sustainable development, and facilitating communication and exchange of information on a regular basis.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of energy activities within the United Nations system (E/C.14/2000/6)

11. The multi-purpose use of hydro resources

The status of hydroelectricity generation worldwide is reviewed. There remains a huge potential for hydroelectricity generation in developing countries. However, ecological concerns and other environmental and social issues remain to be resolved.

The item will be considered jointly by the two Sub-groups.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of hydroelectricity generation (E/C.14/2000/5)

12. Provisional agenda for the third session of the Committee

The Committee will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the provisional agenda for the third session of the Committee and the documents to be submitted under each item.

13. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its second session